NORDIC STUDIES

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The Nordic studies program enables students who enter St. Olaf with advanced competence in Norwegian (or another Nordic language) or those who wish a more interdisciplinary approach than that offered by the Norwegian major an opportunity to pursue their interest in Nordic language, culture, and society.

Overview of the Concentration

The Nordic studies concentration at St. Olaf College is designed to meet the needs of students who wish a more interdisciplinary study of the Nordic cultures than that offered through the Norwegian major. The Nordic studies concentration is an interdisciplinary study of the language, literature, history, and culture of the Nordic countries. It is a self-designed combination of courses, approved by the Director of Nordic Studies, who is also the chair of the Norwegian Department.

Intended Learning Outcomes for the Concentration

Special Programs

The Norwegian Department sponsors many speakers and activities relevant to the Nordic studies concentration such as the annual Christmas service and Seventeenth of May celebration and provides students with the opportunity to live in a language house with a native speaker assistant. The Norwegian-American Historical Association, a rich source of information on Norwegian immigration, is housed in Rølvaag Memorial Library. Many students choose to study in a Nordic country on a variety of programs such as the Oslo International Summer School and the St. Olaf-sponsored programs in Norway and Denmark. Norwegian professors also participate in the Foreign Language Across the Curriculum (FLAC) program, collaborating with disciplinary professors to offer students the opportunity to use their foreign language skills in selected courses in other departments.

Requirements

The Nordic studies concentration consists of five courses. At least two of the five courses must have a focus on at least one Nordic country other than Norway.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NORW 232</td>
<td>Intermediate Norwegian II (or above)</td>
<td>1.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Select one or two other courses from Norwegian department offerings selected from the following:</td>
<td>1.00-2.00</td>
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<td>NORW 130</td>
<td>Nordic Film Today</td>
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<td>NORW 140</td>
<td>Norway: Continuity and Change</td>
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<td>NORW 224</td>
<td>Topics in Contemporary Nordic Literature: Rewriting Nordic Identities</td>
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<td>NORW 244</td>
<td>The Sámi: Traditions in Transition</td>
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NORW 253 Advanced Conversation and Composition
NORW 282 Ibsen
NORW 371 Norwegian Literature: An Overview
NORW 372 Topics in Norwegian Literature/ Culture

Others, as approved by the director

Two or three courses from other departments, such as:

HIST 222 Modern Scandinavia
PHIL 233 Kierkegaard and Existentialism

Other courses with significant content relating to the Nordic countries

Up to three courses from study abroad programs such as DIS, HECUA: The New Norway, and university direct-enroll programs may be counted toward the Nordic studies concentration

One course may be taken S/U.

1 Or advanced intermediate knowledge of a different Nordic language

To become a Nordic studies concentrator, contact the Director of Nordic Studies and inform the registrar by completing the digital form found on the SIS (Student Information System).

Courses

NORST 200: Transdisciplinary Topics in Nordic Studies

Students explore an interdisciplinary topic in language, literature, history, or culture through close reading, discussion, analysis, and interpretation of selected works, including theoretical texts. Recent topics include: Peace and non-violence from a Nordic Perspective, The Immigrant Experience: From Nordic to Contemporary Immigration to Minnesota, Nordic-American heritage, Social Welfare in the Nordic context. Taught in English. May be repeated if topics are different. Offered periodically. Some topics may count toward Norwegian major.

NORST 280: Nordic Film Directors

Numerous Nordic film directors have been celebrated around the world for their important contributions to the art of cinema. In this course students both survey Nordic cinema through chosen examples of such celebrated directors, while also scrutinizing the idea of the film author itself. It asks students to consider what it is about these particular filmmakers that make them special and different from both mainstream and non-Nordic ones. Offered periodically.

Examples of Courses from Outside the Norwegian Department

HIST 169 From Fjord to Frontier: Norwegian-American History in Literature
HIST 211 Viking and Medieval Scandinavia
HIST 222 Modern Scandinavia

Music Performance: Hardanger Fiddle Lessons
PHIL 233 Kierkegaard and Existentialism
PSCI 283 European Social Democracy

PSCI 382 Seminar: The Geopolitics of Eurasian Energy

REL 213 Lutheran Heritage (if paper deals with Scandinavian Lutherans)

Faculty

Director, 2019-2020
Kari Lie Dorer
Associate Professor of Norwegian
Norwegian language and culture; applied linguistics; Sami studies; Nordic film.

Claudia Berguson
Adjunct Associate Professor of Norwegian

Ragnhild Hollekim
Adjunct Associate Professor of Norwegian

David E. Jessup
Visiting Instructor in History
modern Nordic and Nordic-American history

Bjorn Nordfjord
Visiting Associate Professor of English
American cinema; world cinema; crime fiction; adaptation and narrative theory